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State Dept. review completed

East German comment on the Crimea Summit

Pankow has again been the first to comment on a major bloc event, this time the Crimea summit. On 2 August the East German news agency ADN carried a politburo statement approving Honecker's report on the meeting. According to this statement major international issues were discussed, but "special attention" was given to the situation in Europe. In the statement the SED leadership "highly valued" the meeting as a forum for a "fruitful exchange of views" and assessed the results as a "new, convincing proof of the unbreakable unity and constant deepening of the fraternal alliance between our parties, peoples and states."

Despite these sugary words, issues crucial to the GDR seem to have been given very short shrift. The statement said that "the broad international recognition of the GDR on the basis of the principles of international law is proving a topical task with a favorable influence on the political climate of our continent." To describe the recognition issue as a "topical task" is a far cry from normal SED practice. In addition, no mention at all was made of GDR entry into the UN or its specialized agencies.

To add insult to injury the statement even gave favorable mention to the Federal Republic. In describing the "new situation" and "new developmental phase" in Europe, for which the Soviet "flexible policy" and "jointly agreed-on policy of the socialist community" were of course given major credit, the statement said: "It is noteworthy that the new situation in Europe is a result also of the endeavor of the Brandt-Scheel government to develop businesslike relations with the Eastern countries." In light of the present difficult Pahr-Kohl negotiations, recent efforts by the Federal Republic to keep Pankow out of the UN's specialized agencies, and its attempts to prevent other states from recognizing the GDR, this conciliatory position toward the FRG is inconsistent with recent practices.

The impression is created that Soviet words and policy intentions have been placed in East German mouths. It remains to be seen how far this conciliation will go. It has happened in the past that positions taken at or directly after summit conferences have been quickly eroded. Preliminary statements

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indicate that the 2-3 August Bahr-Kohl sessions were not easy. On 3 August Bahr said that the talks were making "very, very difficult" progress. Kohl confirmed that there was a "whole series of obstacles" and described the progress as "certainly difficult." Even a more conciliatory approach by the GDR, if that is what the politburo statement signifies, does not assure easy or quick negotiations.

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Bijedic Stresses Closer US-Yugoslav Ties

A memcon of Premier Bijedic's talks with Ambassador Toon on 30 June has just become available. Bijedic was extremely apologetic for his belated reception of Toon, who took up his post last October, saying that his busy schedule and an unspecified bureaucratic mixup were to blame. He pressed Toon as to how he had been received, saying that it was particularly essential that the American Ambassador should have a clear understanding of Yugoslav objectives. Were all doors open? Had Toon seen all the people he wanted to see and had they been frank and open in their conversations? Bijedic went one step further, saying that if at any time Ambassador Toon had a problem essential to his mission, he is to feel free to call on the Premier's office for help in resolving it.

Bijedic then took the opportunity to review at length Yugoslavia's political and economic progress over the last few years. In both cases he asserted, Belgrade has set its course--there will be no deviation despite disapproval by other communist countries. Politically, much remains to be done in connection with the next set of constitutional amendments, but Bijedic expressed the opinion that many of the thorny problems had been and are being resolved.

Commenting on Yugoslavia's closer ties to CEMA, Bijedic said there is no need for concern on the part of Western governments. Belgrade is aware of the dangers from excessive Soviet economic penetration, "and would take the necessary prophylactic measures." He candidly admitted that Yugoslavia needs an outlet for goods which cannot compete on western markets and CEMA offers useful opportunities.

With regard to US-Yugoslav relations, Bijedic said the Federal Executive Council (Cabinet) is considering making a formal proposal for the creation of a joint US-Yugoslav commission. The primary focus of the body would be on economic matters, but it would also deal with broader political and cultural problems.

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